AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for performing user migrating ~~a user from a source server module providing a content stream to said user, said content stream divided into a plurality of extents, said method~~ comprising ~~the steps of~~:

~~determining,~~ for ~~a~~said content stream being provided to ~~a~~said user from a source server module, determining a transitional extent that definesdefining an appropriate first extent to be provided to said user via a destination server module, said content stream being divided into a plurality of extents, including said transitional extent, said appropriate first extent, and a plurality of subsequent extents;

determining whether~~if~~ said destination server module is capable of ~~providing said transitional extent to said user within a~~ retrieving said transitional extent from an array of storage devices within the transitional extent deadline~~first time period~~; and

causing said destination server module to provide said transitional extent and said subsequent extents ~~associated with said content stream~~ to said user, each extent containing an amount of information retrieved from a single storage device of the~~an~~ array of storage devices during one service period.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether said destination server module is capable of providing said transitional extent to said user within said transitional extent deadline includes:~~said second step of determining comprises the steps of:~~

communicating at least said transitional extent including a transitional extent deadline to said destination server module; and

evaluating a message received from said destination server module, said message comprising one of a rejection, an acceptance and a modified acceptance of a migration of said user to said destination server module.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said message is~~in~~ the ~~case of a~~ rejection of said~~the~~ migration of said user to said destination server module, and further comprising selecting an alternate destination server module ~~is selected~~.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said message is~~in~~ the ~~case of an~~ acceptance message, and~~said method~~ further comprising~~comprises the steps of~~:

determining whether said transition extent deadline has passed; and

when~~and, in the event of~~ said transition extent deadline has~~having~~ passed, determining a next transitional extent for said content stream being provided to said~~the~~ user.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

~~wherein~~ in response to said transition extent deadline not having passed, stopping an output and sending a trigger message to said destination server module.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising: ~~the step of~~

waiting for a response message from said destination server module; and

in response to an error indicative response message, selecting an alternative destination server module.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said message is said~~in response to a~~ modified acceptance ~~message~~, and further comprising~~said method performs the steps of~~:

selecting a new transition extent in when~~the case of~~ said modified acceptance is~~being~~ appropriate; and

selecting an alternative destination server module when~~if~~ said modified acceptance is inappropriate.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein an alternate extent is selected to cause a repetition in content preparation.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said transitional extent is entered at an extent boundary.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said transitional extent is entered at a packet including an asserted discontinuity flag.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said transitional extent is determined with respect to a packet offset parameter comprising an asserted discontinuity flag in a header portion of said ~~transitional offset~~ packet.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said transitional extent is determined with respect to a packet offset parameter.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said transitional extent is determined with respect to a packet offset parameter comprising an asserted discontinuity flag in a header portion of said ~~transitional offset~~ packet.

15. (Currently amended) A method for user migration,~~receiving a migrated user of a content stream, said content stream is divided into a plurality of extents, each extent containing an amount of information retrieved from a single storage device of an array of storage devices during one service period~~, comprising:

receiving a transitional extent identifier, an extent deadline and a content identifier associated with a migrated user of a content stream, said content stream being divided into a plurality of extents, each extent containing an amount of information retrieved from a single storage device of an array of storage devices during one service period;

determining whether~~if~~ a~~the~~ identified transitional extent, which is identified by said transitional extent identifier, of an~~the~~ identified content stream, which is identified

by said content identifier, may be accessed prior to said transitional extent deadline; and

in response to~~the event of~~ a favorable determination, accessing said identified transitional extent and providing a message indicative of acceptance of said migrated user.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising:~~wherein~~ ~~,~~in response to~~the event of~~ an unfavorable determination:, communicating an alternate transitional extent identifier to a source server module; and

accessing said identified content stream beginning with said alternate transition extent.

17. (Currently amended) An a~~A~~pparatus, comprising:

a plurality of server modules including a first server module and a second server module, each ~~of said~~ server modules having ~~associated with it~~ a ~~respective~~ mass storage device for storing content as respective sequences of a plurality of extents including a transitional extent and a first extent, each extent containing an amount of information retrieved from a single storage device of said mass storage device during one service period; and

a switch~~,~~ for coupling a plurality of content streams provided by said server modules to a plurality of transport processors, said content streams including at least one first content stream~~each of said transport processor~~;

wherein said at least one first content streams being provided to a user by said~~a~~ first server module is caused to be provided to said user by said~~a~~ second server module, an initial portion of said first content stream ~~provided by said second server module~~ being defined by a transition~~,~~, said first and second server modules cooperating to define said~~a~~ transitional extent representing said~~a~~ first extent of said first content stream~~ to be provided by said second server module~~;

wherein, in response to~~the case of~~ a migration event, at least one content stream is provided by a source server module and a~~, said~~ failing server module is~~are~~ migrated

to a non-failing server module such that a plurality of subscribers receiving said at least one content streams receive substantially uninterrupted service.

18. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein in response to a failure, an over utilization or a load imbalance condition, at least a portion of said at least onethe content streams provided by said failing server module isare migrated to a non-over utilized server module such that said subscribers receiving said at least onethe content streams ~~provided by said failing server module are migrated to a non-failing server module such that subscribers receiving said content streams~~ receive substantially uninterrupted service.

19. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said mass storage device comprises an array of storage devices for storing said content in a striped manner, said content being distributed among said array of storage devices according to a sequence of extents.